



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **JUNE 18, 2008**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó  
Vice Chair Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore  
Helen Stathatos

##### **Others Present**

Commander Dave Fender, Sheriff's Department  
Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department  
Michael Varela, Probation Department  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Belinda Gibson, Department of Auditor-Controller  
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health  
Timothy Braden, Internal Services Department  
Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing Division

Staff

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff  
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff  
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

Commissioner Bacio joined the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chair Montaño welcomed everyone attending the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

**Sheriff's Department:**

Commander Dave Fender began by distributing the new Roster and Executive Phone List for the month of May 2008 then gave the following report:

- Food service to the youth camps will be implemented in three phases:
  - Phase 1 - A sixty (60) day food service to Camp Holton.
  - Phase 2 - Three additional juvenile camps would be added.
  - Phase 3 - A total of six (6) camps will be receiving food services.
- Food service will cost \$1.10 per meal with 10% designated to administration fees.
- Fourteen (14) trips a day will be made to Sheriff Department facilities to distribute food; drivers will accrue 255,000 miles annually.
- The overall jail inmate count for Los Angeles County for the month of May 2008 was 19,600 inmates, of which 2,200 were females.

Captain Warren Asmus reported to the Commission:

- There were no budget cuts for the Courts for fiscal year 09/10.
- The "Video Arraignment System" will be used in the Courts due to transportation problems, no-go meds, and the rising cost of fuel.
- A "Video Arraignment System Pilot Project" will start in early July at the Glendale Court. The Commission is invited to view the new "Video Arraignment System".
- Glendale Court is the first court to implement the "Video Arraignment Pilot Project Program" with Crescenta Valley and Altadena Courts to follow.

- A Grant of \$300,000 was received to fund the implementation of the "Video Arraignment System" at the Criminal Courts Building.
- The Compton Court "Secondary Containment System" is completed but staffing levels have not been decided.
- Inmates at the Pasadena Courts have been sitting on milk crates due to overcrowding, however new chairs have been purchased.
- Long Beach Courthouse will be replacing its damaged floors.
- The Sheriff's Department holds a Facilities Committee monthly meeting to discuss renovation and potential funding for repairs at detention facilities.
- A bid for \$11,000 was submitted to renovate the Pasadena Lock-up area.

Commissioner Hall joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

**Probation Department:**

Mr. Michael Varela, Dorothy Kirby Center, reported to the Commission:

- The "Success Is Our Future" Graduation was held on May 29, 2008. Scholarships were given to many youths during the event.
- "Operation Graduation" was held on June 7, 2008 at USC. This was a very successful event. There were 271 graduates, and of that number, 52 were from Probation Camps.
- Two stainless steel kitchenettes were installed at the Kirby Center to replace the existing fifty year old kitchenettes.
- Closed circuit cameras have been installed in the Care Units.
- Kirby Center staff is now wearing uniforms.

**Department of Children and Family Services:**

- Ms. Elizabeth Howard distributed copies of success stories of Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) youth and then gave the following report:
- The abused child that was referenced in the "Chair's Report" section, is receiving medical treatment.
- An audit was conducted by the Auditor-Controller to determine if DCFS acted in full compliance with contract regulations. The audit showed that DCFS did more than what was required to notify group homes about their contract renewals.

- A “GAP Analysis” was conducted which showed that RCL-level specific homes are necessary and that there is a strong need for homes that specialize in children with specific mental conditions.

Ms. Dorothy Channel gave the following report:

- If the reunification of a child with their relatives is not successful, then the child can be placed with foster parents through the adoption process.

**Department of Auditor-Controller:**

Ms. Belinda Gibson gave the following report:

- Numerous significant Facility and Environmental problems are present at “Children Are Our Future” Group Homes.
- The “Hope House” Corrective Action Plan has been fully implemented.
- The “New Outlook Boys Home”, “Downs” Group Home and “Martin Children Services” Group Home Corrective Action Plans have been partially implemented.

**Department of Mental Health:**

Mr. Paul McIver reported to the Commission:

- The Mid Valley Youth Center decided not to renew their contract with Los Angeles County.
- The Governors’ Budget included budget cuts to all Community Treatment Facilities in California. The two (2) Los Angeles County Community Treatment Facilities, Star View Children and Family Services, and Vista Del Mar will incur budget cuts.

**Internal Services Department:**

Mr. Timothy Braden gave the following report:

- The Internal Services Department received over 50,000 trouble calls.
- The Department has completed 6,000 projects for this fiscal year.
- Water conservation is a top priority for Los Angeles County due to the drought in California. ISD will be installing “Waterless Urinals” and conducting a pilot project to test the use of the urinals. The urinals will be installed in the Hall of Administration and if the pilot project goes well, other County Departments will follow.

- The "Facility Assessment Program" is a joint venture between the Internal Services Department and the Chief Executive Office. It will be establishing a comprehensive report of all deficiencies in Los Angeles County Department Buildings that require deferred maintenance.
- The ISD Apprenticeship Program has been put on hold due to budget cuts and also because the Union is stating that the pay for the apprentices should be the same as in the private sector. If this is the case, they would be paid a higher wage than our journeyman.
- An "In-house Elevator Program" for youths has been established. The State of California approved an "Elevator Training Program" and as soon as the youths log enough hours and pass the State Exam, they will become Certified Elevator Mechanics.

#### **Community Care Licensing Division:**

Mr. Alan P. Henry reported the following and distributed the following handouts:

- "Group Homes, Group Homes for Children Under Age Six, Community Treatment Facilities Self Evaluation Form" and "A Facility Closure List".

Regulation Section 1531.4, "Security Window Installation", is the release bar mechanism requirement for group homes.

Chair Montaño and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

#### **APPROVAL OF JUNE 11, 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

**On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Vice Chair Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 11, 2008 were approved with the following change:**

- On page 3, under "New Business/Announcements", under "Celebration 2008 Prom and Graduation" change to "*Celebration 2008 Graduation*"...

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montaño reported on the following article and notified the Commission that the "San Gabriel Children's Center" has been reinstated:

- "2 South L.A. Women Concocted Scheme To Hide Torturous Child Abuse, Authorities Say", Los Angeles Times, June 17, 2008, regarding two (2) women who allegedly tried to pass off another boy as the son of one of the women during an interview. The actual son may be permanently disfigured from stove burns, officials say.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,672.83.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Janice Davis, Commission Services, gave the following report:

- Supervisor Antonovich will host the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual All For The Love Of Kids Event at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at Edwards Renaissance Theatre in Alhambra.
- An email was received from Mr. Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing Division, who reported that the California Health and Safety Code 1531.4, and California State Fire Code requires all Community Care Facilities with security bars on Bedroom windows to have working safety release mechanisms on at least one window in each bedroom. The only exception is if the bedroom has a door that leads directly to the outside of the home.

### **DISCUSSION ON SCHOLRSHIP PROGRAMS**

The Commission was advised that Supervisorial Districts will notify staff as soon as date has been determined for the Scholarship Presentations during a Board of Supervisors Meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON ISD PARKING**

The Commissioners informed Mr. Timothy Braden, Internal Services Department (ISD) that they have encountered difficulty parking in the following County parking facilities:

- USC-Medical Center
- Men's Central Jail
- Edelman Children's Branch Courthouse, and
- Criminal Courts Building

Mr. Braden responded by saying ISD controls only 38% of the County Parking Facilities, however, he will contact the ISD Parking Manager to see if he can alleviate the problems the Commissioners are encountering.

### **DISCUSSION ON CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Commissioner Moore proposed that the Commission submit a "Corrective Action Plan" in addition to the "Inspection Report Form" when an inspected facility has three (3) or more problems. A copy of that "Corrective Action Plan" should be submitted to the DCFS and/or Probation and a copy be maintained in Commission Services.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS**

Chair Montaña reviewed the following Audit Report with the Commission:

Trinity-El Monte Group Home - 58, #3, Audit Report dated June 18, 2008 revealed all areas of concerns have been corrected.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JUNE 11, 2008 TO JUNE 17, 2008**

#### **You Are The Difference Foundation – 63, #2 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore**

The facility was visited on June 12, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Water heater needs to be strapped down; one window release bar needs to be fixed.

#### **Turmount Home for Boys – 60, #2 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña**

The facility was visited on June 16, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

#### **Jean Lores Group Homes – 31, #4 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore**

The facility was visited on June 17, 2008, and no one was home.

#### **San Gabriel Children's Center – 52, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña**

The facility was visited on June 17, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Plumbing needs repair; sewage backed up in staff bathroom; building is dirty; lining under sink was moldy.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

Review of the "Group Homes, Group Homes for Children under Age Six, Community Treatment Facilities Self Evaluation Form" and the "Sybil Brand Inspection Report Forms"

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice A. Davis*  
Commission Services Division